

# Consolidated Manchester [R8]/ Derry-Salem [R9] Regional Coordination Council

*Tuesday, April 28, 2020  
Via Zoom (Scott Bogle, Host)*

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

### **ATTENDEES:**

Fred Roberge, Chair – Easterseals NH  
Mike Whitten, Vice-Chair – MTA  
Rick Hartung – Town of Hampstead  
Laurie Makarawicz – MTA/CART  
Dick O'Shaughnessy – Salem Caregivers  
Debra Perou – RNMOW  
Abby Reeves – Town of Hooksett

George Sioras – Town of Derry  
James Wilkie – CareGivers  
Matt Waitkins – NRPC  
Scott Bogle – RPC  
Nate Miller – SNHPC  
Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC  
Adam Hlasny – SNHPC

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Fred Roberge called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM. He read a statement pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 authorizing the RCC to meet electronically.

### **2. Action on Minutes of February 21, 2020**

*Motion by Scott to approve February minutes, seconded by Rick and approved unanimously with Abby abstaining.*

### **3. COVID-19 Update**

There was a roundtable discussion about how the pandemic has affected the RCC's agencies.

- Fred noted that **Easterseals** (ESNH) has cut back service significantly. Demand-response has been limited to 5-10 daily trips for essential needs only. Of a staff of 95, 63 are on full furlough. ESNH will be reaching out to Manchester School District soon, as 79% of its budget comes through MSD. ESNH is currently operating at huge deficits. In response to a question from Nate, Fred confirmed that while service hours are reduced, 5310 activities (shuttle, mobility management work) are continuing.
- Dick reported that **Salem Caregivers** have laid off a staff member and are currently providing only 3-4 rides per week as most doctors' appointments have been canceled. The agency is hesitant to use older drivers given their increased vulnerability. Funding has decreased precipitously, as funds from Salem gaming has fallen away. The typical stipend from the Town may not be guaranteed going forward either.
- James reported that **CareGivers NH** used to provide 70-100 rides/month in Manchester, which has fallen off to about 20. The remaining rides are largely grocery trips. Lack of volunteers is not an issue. CareGivers has begun soliciting volunteer drivers in New Boston pursuant to the conversation at the February 2020 RCC meeting. While it will take time, once a volunteer base is established there, advertising for riders can begin.
- Debra reported that **Rockingham Nutrition Meals on Wheels** has seen increased demand for meals but no BEAS funding yet.

- Mike said that MTA's fixed-route service was suspended on April 1 including StepSaver and Zipline routes to Concord and Nashua. Demand-response service is currently operating fare-free citywide for essential travel. All 5310 POS service is still running, albeit at greatly reduced volume. The CARES Act is helping fill a \$500k farebox revenue gap. However, CARES funding cannot go toward school expenses. There are concerns about how many school drivers will return in the fall. Transit is currently operating with 10 of 32 drivers. It's anticipated that it will still be at least a couple weeks until fixed-route service resumes.

#### **4. Transit Outreach Update**

Sylvia very briefly mentioned that the Alliance for Healthy Aging (AHA) Transportation Workgroup will be releasing a Volunteer Driver Program (VDP) survey shortly. Other updates under this agenda item were tabled due to a lack of time.

#### **5. SCC Update**

This item was tabled due to a lack of time.

#### **6. Other Business**

There was a discussion about an email received from NHDOT's Fred Butler on April 27, 2020:

*You're receiving this because you receive FTA Section 5310 funding (even if only in the form of a vehicle) from NHDOT. We received a phone call from Jim Jalbert, President of C&J Bus Lines, who was recently appointed by Governor Sununu to serve as part of the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). Jim inquired as to any needs in NH's transit realm following the passage of the CARES Act, and, as the 5310 program was omitted from the CARES Act, we ask each Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) to gather feedback from 5310 providers within the respective regions and follow up with Jim with regional funding needs relative to ensuring continued solvency following the COVID-19 pandemic. Again, each agency should please coordinate a single response via the lead agencies to ensure a coordinated response that can be neatly patched together to assess the overall statewide need relative to transportation for seniors & individuals with disabilities. Any vehicle subrecipients that serve multiple regions may contact Jim directly.*

Nate said that it would be best if Region 8-9 5310 recipients could quantify the pandemic's financial impacts on their agencies and submit specific requests as soon as possible. He and Scott will then put together these requests in a unified memo, share with the group, and turn around quickly for submission to Jim Jalbert. Fred added that this additional funding is not 5310-specific, but rather that RCCs are "piling on" to the more general call for quantification of what funding gaps exist at 5310-funded agencies.

***Motion by Nate for 5310 recipients to send these specific requests in to himself and Scott by the end of Friday, May 1, 2020. A memo will be assembled by Tuesday, May 5, reviewed by the RCC, and submitted to Jim Jalbert no later than May 7, 2020. Motion seconded by Mike and approved unanimously.***

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on **June 23, 2020 at SNHPC.**

**Meeting stood adjourned at 3:32 PM.**